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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,298	06/22/2001	Ian E. Smith	D/A1053lharris/xerx/1051.	9531
23910	7590	10/04/2004	EXAMINER	
FLIESLER MEYER, LLP FOUR EMBARCADERO CENTER SUITE 400 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111			COFFY, EMMANUEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/888,298	Applicant(s) SMITH ET AL.	
	Examiner Emmanuel Coffy	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) *
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on 22 June, 2001. Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1-23 are directed to a method, system and article of manufacture for "Accessing Computational Resources through Electronic Messages."

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The following title is suggested: "Active Messaging System."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Regarding claim 1, it is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claim recites: "...performing a function responsive to the step of obtaining." It is not clear what the boundary of the claim is. Hence, the scope of the claim is unascertainable.

However, in order to expedite a complete examination the Examiner asserts that this invention is understood as: "...performing a function responsive to the command instruction".

4. Regarding claims 20 and 22, they are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims recite: "...a parameter, a

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value associated with the parameter...." It is not clear what the boundary of the claims are.

Hence, the scope of the claims is unascertainable.

However, in order to expedite a complete examination the Examiner asserts that this invention is understood as: "...at least one parameter which indicates information to be delivered..".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13, 15-23 directed to a method, article of manufacture and apparatus are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Tilden, Jr. et al. (US 6,449,635).

Tilden substantially teaches the invention as claimed including a script program as a portion of a secondary e-mail message that also includes tracking information; a predefined message is also stored as a main message, the script program also including a command that displays the predefined message by retrieving the second source file. (See abstract).

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Claim 1:

Referring to claim 1, it recites a method for enhancing the functionality of an electronic message, comprising the steps of:

receiving the electronic message; (See col.2, line 49)

obtaining a command instruction from the electronic message; and (See col. 2, lines 51-61).

performing a function responsive to the step of obtaining. (See col. 9, line 44-47)

Claim 2:

Referring to claim 2, it recites the method of claim 1, wherein the command instruction indicates an application provider for performing the function. (See col. 6, lines 21-25).

Claim 3:

Referring to claim 3, it recites the method of claim 1, wherein the command instruction is a Uniform Resource Locator ("URL"). (See col. 5, lines 30-34).

Claim 8:

Referring to claim 8, it recites the method of claim 1, wherein the command instruction includes:

a host and a file which indicate an application provider for performing the function; and (See col. 4, line 67-col. 5, line 2; lines 20-30).

at least one parameter which indicates information to be delivered to the application provider. (See col. 5, lines 33-38).

Claim 9:

Referring to claim 9, it recites the method of claim 1, wherein the command instruction is included in the received message as an Internet shortcut file. (See col. 5, lines 42-47). (it is inherent that http:// refers to the internet.)

Claim 13:

Referring to claim 13, it recites an article of manufacture whereas claim 2 recites a method. However, the limitation claimed in 13 does not reveal to be different from the one recited in claim 2. Therefore, this claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 2.

Claims 15-16, and 19-23

Claims 15 and 16 recite an article of manufacture and claims 19-23 recite an apparatus whereas claims 8, 9 and 10 recite a method. However, the limitations claimed in 15-16 and 19-23 do not reveal to be different from the ones recited in claims 8-10. Therefore, these claims are rejected for the same reason.

Claim 17:

Referring to claim 17, it recites an apparatus for providing a function responsive to receiving a Request, comprising:

a processor; and (See Fig. 1)

a processor readable storage medium in communication with the processor, containing processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to: (See Fig. 1)

receive the Request; (See col. 8, lines 37-39).

perform a function responsive to an instruction included in the Request; and,
(See col. 8, claim 2; col. 9, line 3).

prepare a Response subsequent to performing the function. (See col. 4, lines 63-67).

Claim 18:

Referring to claim 18, it recites the apparatus of claim 17, wherein the Response includes instructions and data, wherein the instructions include information for disposal of the data. (See col. 9, claims 13 and 14.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4-7, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tilden, Jr. et al. (US 6,449,635) in view of Borenstein (WO 92/22033.)

Tilden substantially teaches the invention as claimed including a script program as a portion of a secondary e-mail message that also includes tracking information; a predefined message is also stored as a main message, the script program also including a command that displays the predefined message by retrieving the second source file. (See abstract).

Claim 4:

Referring to claim 4, it recites the method of claim 1, wherein the step of performing a function includes the steps of:

determining an application provider from the command instruction; and
sending a Request to the application provider to perform the function.

Tilden teaches a script program which contains a command which performs a task in response to a user's request. (See col. 6, lines 18-25). Tilden does not explicitly disclose determining an application provider. However, Borenstein does so at page 4, lines 1-6. Hence, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tilden with the application provider determining process disclosed by Borenstein. Such system provides for the automation of routine tasks. Therefore, claim 4 is rejected.

Claim 5:

Referring to claim 5, it recites the method of claim 4, including the step of:
preparing the Request based on the command instruction.

Tilden teaches a script program which contains a command which performs a task in response to a user's request. (See col. 6, lines 18-25). Tilden does not explicitly disclose preparation of the request based on the command instruction. However, Borenstein discloses at page 2, lines 7-8 that an active message is a program that is run. It is therefore, implicit that a program can execute any step as implemented.

Hence, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tilden with the application provider determining process disclosed by Borenstein. Such system provides for the automation of routine tasks.

Claim 6:

Referring to claim 6, it recites the method of claim 4, further including the steps of: receiving a Response from the application provider; and modifying the message responsive to receiving the Response.

Tilden teaches a script program which contains a command which performs a task in response to a user's request. (See col. 6, lines 18-25). Tilden does not explicitly disclose preparation of the request based on the command instruction. However, Borenstein discloses at page 2, lines 7-8 that an active message is a program that is run. It is therefore, implicit that a program can execute any step as implemented.

Hence, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tilden with the application provider determining process disclosed by Borenstein. Such system provides for the automation of routine tasks. Therefore, claim 6 is rejected.

Claim 7:

Referring to claim 7, it recites the method of claim 6, further including the step of: sending the modified message to a destination.

Tilden teaches a script program which contains a command which performs a task in response to a user's request. (See col. 6, lines 18-25). Tilden does not explicitly disclose preparation of the request based on the command instruction. However,

Borenstein discloses at page 2, lines 7-8 that an active message is a program that is run. It is therefore, implicit that a program can execute any step as implemented.

Hence, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tilden with the application provider determining process disclosed by Borenstein. Such system provides for the automation of routine tasks. Therefore, claim 7 is rejected.

Claim 11:

Referring to claim 11, it recites an article of manufacture including an information storage medium wherein is stored information for programming a computer to:

- receive an electronic message having a destination address;
- alter the destination address of the message; and
- send the message based on the altered destination address.

Tilden teaches a script program which contains a command which performs a task in response to a user's request. (See col. 6, lines 18-25). Tilden does not explicitly disclose alteration of the destination address. However, Borenstein discloses alteration of the destination address at page 4, lines 13-17.

Hence, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tilden with the alteration process disclosed by Borenstein. Such system provides for the automation of routine tasks. Therefore, claim 11 is rejected.

Claim 12:

Referring to claim 12, it recites an article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming a computer as in claim 11, wherein the altered destination address identifies a computing device which will perform a function on the message.

Tilden teaches a host as a computing to perform a function on the message. (See col. 4, line 67-col. 5, line 2). Tilden does not explicitly disclose alteration of the destination address. However, Borenstein discloses alteration of the destination address at page 4, lines 13-17.

Hence, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tilden with the alteration process disclosed by Borenstein. Such system provides for the automation of routine tasks. Therefore, claim 12 is rejected.

7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tilden, Jr. et al. (US 6,449,635) in view of Borenstein (WO 92/22033.) in further view of Richard (US 6,728,711).

Tilden substantially teaches the invention as claimed including a script program; a predefined message is stored as a main message, the script program also including a command that displays the predefined message by retrieving the second source file. (See abstract).

Claim 10:

Referring to claim 10, it recites the method of claim 4, wherein the Request is sent using an HTTP POST command.

Tilden teaches a script program which contains a command which performs a task in response to a user's request. (See col. 6, lines 18-25). Tilden does not explicitly disclose determining an application provider. However, Borenstein does so at page 4, lines 1-6. Hence, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tilden with the application provider determining process disclosed by Borenstein. Such system provides for the automation of routine tasks. Neither Tilden nor Borenstein disclose HTTP Post. However, Richard does. (See abstract).

Hence, it would have been obvious for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Tilden and the application provider determining process disclosed by Borenstein with HTTP POST as disclosed by Richard. Such system provides for the automation of back-up and restoration tasks.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel Coffy whose telephone number is (703) 305-0325. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703) 308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Emmanuel Coffy
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2157

EC
September 23, 2004


ARIQ ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100